

REMARKS

Consideration of claims 14, 16, 17, 26, 32 and 37 is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the current application entitled Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.

In the Office Action dated August 1, 2002, the Examiner contended that claims 14, 16, 17, 26, 32 and 37 fail to read on any of the illustrated embodiments. Applicant submits that these claims are supported by the application as follows.

Concerning claim 14, communication between the second annular cavity 35' and the second piston chamber 32 is depicted in Figures 23 and 24, with the communication being via apertures 191.

Concerning claims 16 and 17, new Figure 17a illustrates the features of claims 16 and 17 by amending current Figure 17 to include the coil spring 60 and annular end plate 62 of Figures 10 and 11. The configuration of new Figure 17a is described at page 4, lines 9-14 and 18-20 of the present specification. No new matter has been added.

Concerning claim 26, the gas cylinder arrangement of this claim is depicted in Figures 9 and 12. The first and second sub-chambers 112a, 112b communicate with opposing ends of the gas cylinder 140 via first and second conduits 141, 151 disposed adjacent the fixed seal 145. The gas cylinder 140 is provided with a gas chamber 116 separated from the first and second conduits 141, 151 by axially displaceable dividing pistons 118, 128.

Concerning claims 32 and 37, communication of the annular cavity and piston sub-chamber is illustrated in new Figure 22a. New Figure 22a amends Figure 13 to include the apertures 191 shown in Figures 21 and 22. Support for the configuration of new Figure 22a is described at page 24, lines 11-13 and page 7, lines 1-4 and 18-21 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

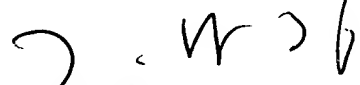
In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 14, 16, 17, 26, 32 and 37 are supported by the current application. Consideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.



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Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification

Please enter the following new paragraph at page 11, after line 6.

Figure 17a is a sectional front elevational view of a modified form of the shock absorber of Figure 16 in an extended state.

Please enter the following new paragraph at page 11, after line 16.

Figure 22a is a sectional front elevational view of a modified form of the shock absorber of Figure 12 in an extended state.

Please enter the following new paragraph at page 20, after line 27.

The shock absorber of Figures 16 and 17 is depicted with two coil springs 60, 61 in Figure 17a. The coil spring first ends 60a, 61a are fixed with respect to the sleeve 31 by way of an annular end plate 62 fixed to the sleeve 31.

The paragraph beginning at page 24, line 11 has been rewritten as follows:

This configuration could also be applied to the twin piston rod configuration of Figures 12 and 13, with both the first and second annular cavities 135, 235 communicating with the respective piston sub-chambers 132, 232 through apertures 191. Such a configuration is depicted in Figure 22a.

In the Claims

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

14. (Amended) The shock absorber of claim 13 wherein said second annular cavity communicates with said second piston chamber, a cross-sectional area of said second annular cavity measured in a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said piston rod [direction] being substantially equal to a cross sectional area of said piston rod.